

Contact: Tom Cook 406-444-1645 Release: Receipt

(ED note and remove: awards are statewide and listed by county below so you can pick those of interest. We encourage you to follow up locally with winners. We have photos of winners that can be found and accessed for your use at:

<http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/PresAwards.asp>. If photographs with higher resolution are required or you have questions please contact the Montana State Historic Preservation office at 444-7715)

The Montana Historical Society hosted the 2009 Biennial Historic Preservation Awards on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena. These awards recognize the outstanding efforts of those who have worked to save and honor historic buildings and preserved properties across Montana. As it has been for over twenty years, it was a special event that drew together many unsung heroes who dedicate their energies to preserving the best of our collective past.

Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger presented four awards and 32 certificates, which honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation of our significant places. The owners of 30 properties and two National Historic Landmarks listed in the National Register of Historic Places over the past two years received certificates of registration.

The Northern Cheyenne Rosebud and Wolf Mountains Battlefields Preservation Committee received an award for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy. For years the Northern Cheyenne Rosebud and Wolf Mountains Battlefield Preservation Committee has worked for the preservation of these nationally significant battlefields, each of which stands out in the history of our nation as the places where the Cheyenne and Lakota people fought to preserve their homeland against the U.S. Army.

The Judith Theater in Lewistown was recognized for an outstanding historic rehabilitation project. The historic rehabilitation of the 1914 Judith Theater in Lewistown is the handiwork of owners Elizabeth and Theodore Wright. Their work on the Judith Theater benefits Lewistown not only historically --- but also aesthetically, commercially, and culturally. The theater's Classical design is by Montana architects Link & Haire. It is expressed in terra cotta and brick and is a fine example of Lewistown's masonry tradition.

Mitzi Rossillon of Butte received a 2009 Preservation Award for her outstanding achievements in both Montana historical archaeology and historic preservation. Mitzi has worked to elevate our understanding and appreciation of historical archaeology as a discipline unto itself. Ms. Rossillon has probably evaluated more historic mining properties than any other professional in the state. In the field of historic preservation, Mitzi has been a long-time volunteer and advocate.

The fourth and final award which is the Governor's Award, was presented to the Rialto Theater Restoration Project in Deer Lodge for its outstanding work in local preservation.

Since 1995, the Rialto Community Theater organization of Deer Lodge has worked hard and long to preserve the 1921 Rialto Theater. The theater is a remarkable example of “Beaux-Arts” style architecture in Montana. When most of the preservation work was almost complete, a fire swept through and gutted the historic Rialto Theatre in November 2006. Recognizing that much of the building still remained, the people of Deer Lodge wasted no time in starting to again rebuild this cultural asset. The Rialto is scheduled to reopen for business as early as the summer of 2009.

Descriptions of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places over the past two years and the two recent National Historic Landmarks are presented below:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District, Wise River vicinity

Owned by: Beaverhead NF

A large ore processing mill, lumber mills, tramways and other mine structures, as well as the ghost town of Coolidge, mark the Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic District. These public remains from the 1910s and 1920s provide an important reminder of industrial mining in Montana in the early twentieth century.

Van Camp-Tash Ranch, outside Dillon

Owned by: William & Judy Tash

One of the oldest ranches in the Dillon area, the Van Camp-Tash Ranch still has buildings dating from the 1860s. Its log barn and home are exceptional examples of piece-by-piece log construction and rare Montana remnants of early French-Canadian building techniques.

BIGHORN COUNTY

Rosebud Battlefield NHL or “Where the Girl Saved Her Brother”, located in Bighorn County

Owned by: the MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Timothy and Georgia Lanham; and Jessie and Grace Huffman

The Rosebud Battlefield remains one of the finest examples of a pristine Great Sioux War Battlefield in the west. Today its setting provides a unique view shed much as it was over 130 years ago when U.S. troops with Shoshone and Crow Scouts under General Crook engaged in battle with the Cheyenne and Sioux alongside Crazy Horse, setting the stage for the fateful battle of the Little Bighorn days later.

CARBON COUNTY

Kero Farmstead Historic District, near Red Lodge

Owned by: Rex & Gina Ternan

The fourteen historic structures that make up the Kero farmstead include log, stone, and frame buildings. The property outside of Red Lodge is one of the finest examples of an extant Finnish farmstead in the Rocky Mountains.

Red Lodge Brewery & Cannery Historic District

Owned by: RCSF Holdings and Paul Pilafi

In 1910, the prominent architectural firm of Link and Haire designed the monumental Red Lodge Brewery. The three-story wooden addition constructed in 1927 represents the building's second life, after it became a pea cannery during the Prohibition.

CHOTEAU COUNTY

First National Bank of Geraldine

Owned by: Basin State Bank of Stanford

The first brick structure in Geraldine, this neo-classically inspired bank was built in 1914. The building—which remains in use as a bank—is a monument to the Montana homesteading boom and the farmers it was built to serve.

DEER LODGE COUNTY

Anaconda Saddle Club

Owned by: Anaconda Saddle Club Committee

An octagonal Rustic style clubhouse distinguishes the Anaconda Saddle Club, making it one of Montana's most unique recreational facilities. Built in the mid-1940s, its five barns, arena, and other buildings hosted club activities as well as regional rodeos and horse shows.

FERGUS COUNTY

Abraham and Mary Walton Hogeland House, Lewistown

Owned by: Marjorie Mackey, CA & Nancy Wagner, WA

Abraham and Mary Hogeland had this residence moved to Lewistown in 1895 when the ranch family needed a house in town. The gable-front-and-wing home was originally an officers' quarter at Fort Maginnis.

FLATHEAD COUNTY

Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop

Kalispell architect Burt Gewalt's design for the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop incorporated Swiss chalet references to echo the nearby historic General Store. This makes it one of the few National Park Service Mission 66 buildings designed to reflect an existing park style.

Wheeler Camp, on Lake McDonald

Owned by: The Wheeler family and Glacier National Park

Montana's dynamic U.S. Senator Burton K. Wheeler and his wife Lulu followed the Rustic Style of the National Park Service in building their Glacier Park retreat. This boundary increase adds the outbuildings to the cabin which was previously listed in the National Register.

GALLATIN COUNTY

(STAT) Stateler Memorial Methodist Church, in Willow Creek

Owned by: Trustees of the United Methodist-Episcopal Church of Willow Creek

The 1915 Stateler Memorial Methodist Church combines the nostalgic Neo-Gothic style with modern concrete block construction. It serves as the second home to one of Montana's oldest Methodist congregations and a spiritual and social center for Willow Creek.

GLACIER COUNTY

The Cut Bank Municipal Airport and Army Air Force Base

Owned by: Cut Bank Airport Association

The Cut Bank Airport began as a private airfield in 1930, then functioned as one of Montana's satellite B-17 training bases during World War II, and has since served as a commercial airport. Its historic runways and structures tell the story of Montana's role in the war effort and of early aviation history in the state.

Chief Mountain Border Station and Quarters, near Babb

Owned by: General Services Administration and the National Park Service

National Park Service architect A. Paul Brown designed the 1939 Chief Mountain Border Station. The Rustic-style building reflects twentieth-century recreation and transportation trends, particularly the growing number of tourists visiting Glacier National Park by car.

The Logan Pass Visitor Center

Owned by: Glacier National Park Service

An exceptional representation of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. This initiative was designed to meet escalating modern visitor demands in the post World War II era.

The Saint Mary Visitor Center

Owned by: Glacier National Park Service

Also exemplifies the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. The Kalispell, Montana, architectural firm of Brinkman and Lenon designed the Modernist building, which still greets visitors at one of Glacier's main points of entry.

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY

Lavina State Bank

Owned by: Lavina Temple Lodge #101

Through prosperity and depression, the Lavina State Bank took care of its customers from 1909 to 1923. The building went on to serve a useful life as a post office, community center, and home to the Freemasons who have preserved its classic western ambiance.

LAKE COUNTY

The Big Arm School, in Lake County

Owned by: School District #23, Polson

The Big Arm School reflects important associations with the history of education and the development of Big Arm. Built in the mid-1910s, the building is also an excellent and important example of early twentieth century one-room schoolhouse design.

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

Alice Creek Historic District, near Lincoln

Owned by: Helena National Forest

The multi-layered history of the Alice Creek Historic District extends back to 5000 BP. Important to our understanding of native use of the Northern Rockies, this trail-based district also has significant associations with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the arrival of Jesuit missionaries to western Montana.

Charles A. Broadwater House, Helena

Owned by: William Whyte Jr., Helena

George Appleton designed this summer home for Colonel Charles Broadwater to complement his nearby Broadwater Hotel and Natatorium. A stellar example of the Shingle style, the home is the only significant surviving structure associated with the famed Helena resort.

The Francis and Hannah Pope House, Helena

Owned by: Mike & Amy Sullivan

Architect T. W. Welter transformed a modest one-story home into this grand, Eastlake style showplace. The 1880s Pope residence and elaborate carriage house celebrate the permanency Helena realized when the Northern Pacific Railroad put the town on its transcontinental route.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Libby High School

Owned by: Libby School District

Built at a time of growth and prosperity, the historic Libby High School has anchored its community since 1916. We recognize this school today for its significance to Libby's educational history and community development and as well as for its architectural values.

MADISON COUNTY

Ferris/Hermesmeier/Fenton Ranch, near Sheridan

Owned by: Kathleen F Wuelfing

In the mid 1860s, a widow with two small children established this ranch, which is significant for its associations with women's history and area agricultural traditions. The Fenton family and their descendants have maintained the working ranch for the last 70 years.

MISSOULA COUNTY

The Roxy Theater, an addendum to the Missoula University Area Historic District

Owned by: The International Wildlife Film Festival

The Art Deco details of the reinforced-concrete Roxy Theater celebrated the possibilities of the modern age. Built in 1937, the theater also recalls the golden age of cinema—and the popularity of movies during the Great Depression. Its exterior has been recently restored to its original grandeur.

MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

Roundup Central School

Owned by: School District #55 of Roundup

The noted architectural firm of Link and Haire designed Central School in Roundup. They took their inspiration from the Italian Renaissance and Romanesque styles for the symmetrical stone building, which was constructed in two phases in 1911 and 1914.

PARK COUNTY

Chicken Creek Farmstead Historic District, near Clyde Park

Owned by: Paul and Rachel Manganiello

The isolated Chicken Creek farmstead is an important reminder of the Shields Valley's long and rich agricultural history. With the restoration of the original buildings, the property is a poignant and beautiful reminder of a century of land tenure.

POWELL COUNTY

The Deer Lodge Central Business District

This district is made up of 45 Contributing buildings owned by various Deer Lodge residents.

Miners, traders, movers and shakers traveled the well-trodden path to Deer Lodge, one of Montana's earliest commercial hubs and home to many historic resources. The evolution and preservation of its architecturally diverse Commercial District reflects the inspiration of its citizens both past and present.

ROSEBUD COUNTY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Rosebud

Owned by: Rosebud Community Chapel

In 1906 Rosebud residents joined together to build St. Philips Episcopal Church. Boasting a bell tower and stained glass imported from Bavaria, the log church is a reminder of the homesteaders who constructed and worshipped within it.

Wolf Mountains Battlefield National Historic Landmark or "Where Big Crow Walked Back and Forth", near Birney in Rosebud County

Owned by: the Quarter Circle U Ranch and the Bureau of Land Management

The Wolf Mountain Battlefield is a principle site in the core region and history of the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877. Coming near the end of formal conflict, it is reflective of

America's largest Indian war and is exceptionally associated with historic patterns of national military and Indian policy during the late nineteenth century.

WIBAUX COUNTY

Vogt-Nunberg Farm/Homestead, near Wibaux

Owned by: Fred & Shirley Nunberg

The beautifully maintained buildings of the Vogt-Nunberg Farm manifest the optimism of the Eastern Montana homesteading boom. The farm also reflects the tenacity of the Nunberg family, which purchased the farm in 1929 and continues to preserve the house, barn and other historic agricultural structures on the property.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

L&L Building, Billings

Owned by: L&L Development Venture

Significant for its association with Billings' historic Chinese neighborhood, the L&L Building is one of the oldest extant brick commercial buildings in downtown Billings. It is also an excellent and well preserved example of late 19th century commercial block design, now adaptively re-used and revitalized as a unique SUBWAY restaurant.

Oliver Building, Billings

Owned by: Oliver Building Development Venture

Completed in 1910, the Oliver Building reflects the large-scale industrial/commercial architecture associated with Billings' early twentieth century economic boom. Influenced by the Chicago Style of design, the four-story masonry building is also a fine local example of period commercial architecture.

Harold and Marion Ruth Residence, Billings

Owned by: Harry & Sara Axline

Billings architect Everett Terrell designed this classic 1950s Ranch style home on a remote cliff overlooking the Alkali Creek valley. Even though Billings expanded around it, the home continues to blend into its natural surroundings, evoking the town's not-so-distant rural past.

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